

REMARKS

This Election is in response to the requirement made by the Examiner in the Office Action of March 5, 2008 to elect a single disclosed species for prosecution on the merits to which the claims shall be restricted if no generic claim is finally held to be allowable. The Examiner has identified three distinct species as being independent or distinct because they belong to different embodiments.

The Examiner alleges that this application contains claims to patentably distinct species, i.e. species I drawn to fig 1, species II drawn to fig 2 and species III drawn to fig 3. The applicant disagrees. However, by the above amendment the applicant has clarified the claims and amended the description to unify the language used in connection with figs 1-3 so as to make the claims read more consistently. In the following, the applicant traverses the requirement.

TRAVERSE:

All three embodiments shown in figs 1-3 have following features in common:

A semiconductor component (e.g. apparatus) comprising

- an electroconductive element (reference numbers in figs 105, 205, 305),
- at least one outlet (106, 206, 306) of the electroconductive element (105, 205, 305),
- a semiconductor element (102, 202, 302),
- a cover element (104, 204, 304) for covering the semiconductor element (102, 202, 302), and
- the at least one outlet (106, 206, 306) is configured to connect the electroconductive element (105, 205, 305) to ground (e.g. a ground plane of a mounting tray) in order to shield the semiconductor element (102, 202, 302) against electrostatic pulses.

Grounds for above mentioned mutually common characteristics of the species I-III can be found from the description (WO 2005/057655) on page 3, lines 14-18, and

starting from page 5 line 20 to page 6 line 6, from page 6 line 28 to page 7 line 12, as well as page 8 lines 3-26.

There are some inconsistencies in the present description. The term “semiconductor component” does have two usages in the current description. To clarify this situation the term “semiconductor component” should have the following meaning, i.e. an apparatus that comprises at least an electroconductive element (105, 205, 305), semiconductor element (102, 202, 302) and a cover element (104, 204, 304). In addition to this, the term “semiconductor component” is also used in the current description with the meaning of semiconductor element (102, 202, 302), i.e. a diode, transistor and component whenever referred by reference numbers 102, 202, 302. Therefore, the applicant has amended the specification so that in the latter meaning the term “semiconductor element” has replaced the term “semiconductor component” where appropriate so as to make the description consistent.

In accordance with above amendment the applicant doesn't see any reason for the Election/Restriction requirements stated by the Examiner. A generic claim 1 covering all the species is now in the form of:

1. A semiconductor component comprising a semiconductor element and an electroconductive element comprising at least one outlet, wherein the at least one outlet is configured to connect the electroconductive element to ground in order to shield the semiconductor element against electrostatic pulses.

Therefore, withdrawal of the restriction requirement is requested.

ELECTION/RESTRICTION:

Nevertheless, the Applicant without prejudice elects species I (drawn to fig 1)
to be examined as required. At least claims 1, 8, 15 and 16 read on Fig. 1.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Francis J. Maguire". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large loop at the end of the last name.

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